

CLAIMS

1. A microorganism which belongs to the genus *Rhizobium* and has the ability of degrading an aromatic polyester.
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2. The microorganism according to claim 1 which was named *Rhisobium* sp. OKH-03 and deposited as FERM P-19483.
3. A method of degrading an aromatic polyester,
10 comprising the step of bringing the microorganism of claim 1 into contact with an aromatic polyester to degrade the aromatic polyester.
4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the aromatic
15 polyester contains 95 wt% or more of an ethylene terephthalate recurring unit.
5. The method according to claim 3, wherein contact between the microorganism and the aromatic polyester is
20 carried out on an LE medium.
6. The method according to claim 3, wherein contact between the microorganism and the aromatic polyester is carried out at 20 to 37° C.
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7. The method according to claim 3, wherein contact between the microorganism and the aromatic polyester is carried out at a pH of 6 to 9.
8. The method according to claim 3, wherein contact between the microorganism and the aromatic polyester is carried out while the microorganism forms a bio film on the surface of the aromatic polyester.
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